

SENATE BILL 64

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2001 Regular Session  
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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee and  
Chairman, Budget and Taxation Committee (Departmental -  
Education)**

Requested: November 14, 2000

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Aid for Public Education - Schools for Success - Extension of Sunset**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the authorized uses of certain challenge grant funds;  
4 altering the dates for certain reports to be filed; extending the termination date  
5 of certain provisions relating to challenge grants for school improvement; and  
6 generally relating to State aid for public education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Education  
9 Section 5-204  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Chapter 210 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1992, as amended by  
14 Chapter 349 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995 and Chapter 677  
15 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998  
16 Section 2

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Education**

20 5-204.

21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (2) "Challenge grants" means funds distributed by the Department for  
23 use in accountability of low-performing schools for school improvement based upon  
24 Schools for Success goals.

1           (3)        "Data-based areas" means those areas identified by the Department  
2 for which information is to be tracked for each school, each school system, and the  
3 State related to the 10 Schools for Success goals.

4           (4)        "Maryland School Performance Program" means an outcome based  
5 education accountability program that concentrates on accountability through school  
6 improvement in the public schools.

7       (b)       (1)       There may be a School Improvement Research Project administered  
8 and directed by the Department.

9           (2)        A Schools for Success Fund may be established for challenge grants to  
10 implement school improvement.

11          (3)        The Department, with the concurrence of county boards, shall select  
12 the public schools to receive challenge grants. The recipient schools shall have the  
13 following characteristics, as applicable, derived from data-based information:

14                   (i)        Low percentage of average daily attendance;

15                   (ii)       High percentage of dropouts;

16                   (iii)      Low percentage of students passing the Maryland Functional  
17 Tests on the first administration;

18                   (iv)      Poor performance on the criterion referenced tests; and

19                   (v)      Other mutually acceptable factors.

20          (4)        Any challenge grant funds provided under this section shall be used  
21 [to effect systemic changes in the recipient schools, including interagency activities,  
22 computer labs, salary incentive programs, staffing, total quality management, and  
23 other purposes approved by the Department] AS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
24 FOR THE RECIPIENT SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT RESEARCH-BASED SCHOOL  
25 IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES THAT LEAD TO SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL  
26 AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

27          (5)        Each public school that is a recipient of a challenge grant shall have  
28 a school improvement team constituted according to guidelines established by the  
29 Department.

30          (6)        Each school improvement team shall establish outcomes, measures  
31 for the outcomes, and timelines for its school to show improvement in the data-based  
32 areas in accordance with guidelines established by the Department.

33          (7)        Selection of school administrative leadership shall be a decision by  
34 the local school superintendent with the concurrence of the State Superintendent.

1           (8)       Nothing in this section shall require that any particular school  
2 system be required to accept a grant from or otherwise participate in the Schools for  
3 Success Challenge Grant Program.

4       (c)       The Department shall collect and, in accordance with [§ 2-1218] § 2-1246  
5 of the State Government Article, report to the General Assembly by [January 15,  
6 2002] JANUARY 15, 2007 a final accountability report on each school that receives a  
7 challenge grant, with interim annual reports submitted by January 15 of [1999, 2000,  
8 and 2001] EACH YEAR based upon progress toward outcome attainment.

9                           **Chapter 210 of the Acts of 1992, as amended by Chapter 349 of the Acts of**  
10                           **1995 and Chapter 677 of the Acts of 1998**

11       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 July 1, 1992. It shall be effective for a period of [9] 15 years and, at the end of June  
13 30, [2001] 2007 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
14 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

15       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
16 effect July 1, 2001.